

AUDIO_GATEBURTON_PRELIM1_SESSION 1_040723

00:05

Ladies and gentlemen, I make it 10 o'clock. So it's time for me to begin this meeting. Before we go any further, can I just confirm Can everybody hear me clearly? Thank you very much. Can I also confirm with the case team that the live streaming recording of this event has commenced? Thank you. I would like to thank everybody here to the preliminary meeting for the application by good Burton energy Park limited for an order granting development consent, the good Burton energy Park project. My name is Kenneth stone, chartered town planner, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State as a single examining inspector to examine this application. You will also hear me referred to as the examining authority. My role is to examine the application and to report to the Secretary of State for energy security and net zero with a recommendation as to whether or not the developing consent order should be made. Admit a declaration of interest and I have no conflict of interest in respect of this appointment. Yep, application seeks consent to construct operate, maintain and Decommission ground mounted solar photovoltaic panel arrays on site battery storage and associated infrastructure. associated infrastructure includes but is not limited to access provision and an underground 400 kilovolt electrical connection of approximately 7.5 kilometers to the Kaatham National Grid substation. Planning Inspectorate case manager for this application is Mrs. Hanlon, she's not with us today, but she's on the virtual room. And she is being covered today by Jake Stevens who's back at the table. And he's further supported by Case Officer Spencer Barrowman. Please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the cash team should you need any help in today's event, or with the technology? Firstly, a few housekeeping matters. If anybody has any phones or anything of that nature, could you please turn them to silent. Make sure there's no interruptions. You may well have seen the toilets and the way in there on the left hand side at the top of the reception area, right towards the lifts. Not expecting any fire alarms today. If one does go off, there's a fire exit in the left hand corner here and there's a fire exit just past the TV station on the right on the way I look at the assembly point is down the stairs and run to the front of the building. Today's meeting is being undertaken as a blended event. That means that there are participants here in the room with us today. And also joining us virtually on Microsoft Teams. I will make sure that whoever you are have decided to attend today, you will be given a fair opportunity to participate. Meeting is both live streamed and recorded. For those people observing or participating remotely. In order to minimize background noise. Can you please make sure that you stay muted unless you're speaking if you are participating virtually and you wish to speak at the relevant point in the proceedings, please use the raised hand function. Please be patient as I may not get to you immediately, but I will invite you to speak at the appropriate time. Alternatively, please turn your camera on so that I can see that you wish to speak. Can I also remind people that the chat function and Microsoft Teams is switched off for this event. A recording of today's event will be available on the gait burden energy Park page of the national infrastructure website as soon as practicable after this meeting. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into the microphone stating your name and who you are representing each time that you speak. I linked to the planning Inspectorate privacy notice was provided in my real six letter. I assume that everybody here today has familiarized

themselves with this, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in the data protection laws. Please speak to a member of the case team. If you have any questions about this. It's very unlikely that I will ask anyone to put any sensitive personal information into the public domain and I would please encourage you not to do that. However, if for some reason you feel it is necessary to refer to information that you would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. It should be in a written form, which can then be redacted before it is published. Again, please talk to the case team about the best way to do this. Today's meeting will follow the agenda as set out in Annex A of my rule six letter, I think there are hard copies of that available around the room, and we will at appropriate stages display some elements on the screen where necessary might be helpful if the applicant could put a copy of the agenda item on the agenda up on the screen at this point just to show the appendix A.

05:54

Thank you very much. Let's scroll down a little bit. And the purpose of this morning's meeting is to focus on the way in which this application is proposed to be examined. On that basis, I will only be inviting discussion to put the procedural aspects of the examination. Apart purpose of this meeting is not to discuss either the merits or any concerns that you may have regarding the application. The merits or concerns will be considered once the examination of the application begins, which happens following the closure of this preliminary meeting. This morning, will be an opportunity for participants to provide their views on the examination process. I will listen, seek clarification and clarify any matters where necessary. But I will not be taking any procedural decisions today on the process. It will be easy for me to determine higher considers the most appropriate way to examine the application. And I will take on board all the matters and issues raised with me today. I'll provide a rule eight letter with a finalized timetable. And that will be published as soon as practicable after the close of this meeting, but will probably be next week at some stage. It's also my intention to publish my first set of written questions at the same time as my release letter.

07:23

I'm anticipating that this preliminary meeting should be concluded by lunchtime today. I think you can stop sharing the agenda with us No. No go to ask various participants to introduce yourselves.

07:49

So if we can run through those Could you please introduce yourself stating your name and who you represent and which agenda item on which you wish to speak. And if you're not representing an organization, please confirm your name. Summarize your interest in the application and confirm the agenda item on which you wish to speak to when we start with the applicant and its advisors, if you can hear from whoever is going to speak for the applicant, the majority of times and then introduce your other members, please.

08:28

Yes, thank you Mr. Sean. My name is Amy Sterling. I'm a Senior Associate Solicitor at Pinsent masons and we're legal advisors to Cape Breton energy Park limited are the applicant for this DCU application. I'm joined on my right by James Hartley blonde, who's a project development director at low carbon. And I'm also joined to my left by Alison Lido, who's the DCU and planning leader ARP anticipate that

those are the only parties from the Applicant who will be speaking today that if others don't need to speak they will introduce themselves at the appropriate time.

09:00

Thank you very much. And I then move on to the organizations and individuals who have expressed a wish to speak before this meeting, and again could ask you to introduce yourself and tell us the agenda items on which you speak wish to speak. Can I start with Lincolnshire county council please?

09:23

Good morning sir. My name is Stephanie Hall, Ste pH en IE. All ha Double L happy to be Miss Hall and council instructed by Lincolnshire county council. My instructing solicitor sits to my immediate left she is Miss Martha Reese R E S. Sorry, can you spell again Ruth R E. F. G A senior solicitor at Legal Services Lincolnshire. I'm joined by two officers from the county council. I'll let them introduce themselves.

09:55

So thank you.

09:59

My name is Naomi. Brian, I'm head of planning at least a county council

10:06

Good morning I'm Eloise Sheba. I'm a planning officer at Lincolnshire county council.

10:11

Sorry Eloise Shiva sh i e r Thank you very much

10:27

and West Lindy District Council, those in the room firstly

10:33

it's good morning sir. My name is Samuel shake is Sh emu El Sheikh sh EIKH. I'm off Council. I'm representing West Lindsay District Council. I'll ask the gentleman on my right to brief introduce themselves to thank you. Yes, thank you, sir. I'm Russell Clarkson. I'm the Development management team manager at West Lindsey District Council. Good morning, sir. My name is Alex Blake.

11:09

I'm Associate Director at Atkins. I'm a chartered town planner supported by Cincy District Council.

11:20

I understand we've got a couple of representatives virtually from West Lindsey District Council. And could I just ask you to pop your cameras on and introduce yourselves?

11:33

Yeah, so Hi, I'm Laura Martin. I'm a senior environmental consultant at Atkins representing West Lindsay District Council. Thank you. Morning, niblet. I'm a senior planner Atkins. Representing Miss Lindsay. District Council. Thank you.

12:06

So if we can move on to the other individuals who indicated a wish to speak to I have Mr. CLeg? Either virtually or in the room? No. Okay. Thank you very much. I have an indication of wish to speak from 7000 acres. understand there's a number of participants from that group here but that Mrs. Mrs. Mrs. Miss carpet, this carpet. Miss Garbutt is going to speak on their behalf. And you can introduce the others, as well as saying you to speak but you're going to be the principal speaker.

12:45

That's right. That's correct.

12:46

That's correct. Yeah.

12:50

Sorry, yes. My name is Liz gobert. I'm representing 7000 acres along with my other colleagues here who will introduce themselves at a later point if need be.

12:58

Thank you very much. Okay, is there anybody else in the room here today who may wish to speak during the meeting? Okay, thank you very much.

13:22

If anybody else decides that they wish to speak during the course of this morning's proceedings, for example, to make comments in response to representation to me at bay or the parties, you may do so please raise your hand either physically or using the raised hand function within teams, if you wish to speak. Are there any other comments that anybody wishes to make under Agenda Item one introductions? Nope. Okay. Okay, so we shall move on to agenda item two, which are my opening remarks about the examination process is relatively short order to streamline the event. And hb of my real six letter, I provide an introduction to the preliminary meeting and the examination process explaining how it will be conducted and how you can't participate. for expediency. I'm assuming that everybody else has read this, and therefore I don't propose to spend time reading it out. No. There are two specific matters. I'll just draw your attention relatively quickly. Firstly, in terms of additional submissions, I wanted to ensure that parties are aware that in during the pre examination stage a number of documents have been submitted, which have accepted as additional submissions. These include revised versions of some key application documents, including the works planned streets right of way and access plan, traffic regulation, measures, plans, and land plans, as well as submissions from other bodies including the call authority, Nat safeguarding limited canal and river trust annex all They can be accessed through the examination library. reference numbers as 001 through two as 20. And since my real six LETTER I've received a further additional submission, which I've accepted again, that's from x LM and provide some further information on comments that they previously made, and

that's an AAS zero 21. Terms of procedural deadline a, it was December 14 to June, I received some 69 submissions, which included comments on the examination procedure, suggested locations to visit, attendance of various hearings and other matters of commercial cover those during the meeting on the agenda. If anybody has any comments on any of those submissions, please make sure they do so by deadline one. In the draft timetable is the 18th of July. The more general observations I would like to make comes with deadlines. I'll come on to talk about the actual examination timetable shortly. But I'd like to highlight the importance of ensuring the information is submitted in accordance with set deadlines. Timetable can only be delivered if all parties meet the deadline, and provide submissions that are comprehensive as possible. late submissions restrict the ability of other parties involved to respond to the information provided, which can lead to unfairness in the process. It is therefore important for all to note that if you submit something that there is always the possibility that it may not be accepted into the examination. Terms of resolving disagreement where there is disagreement between the parties and matters, I would ask that all sides engage in a positive and timely manner to seek resolution where possible. This includes progressing statements of common ground as proactively as possible, and demonstrating progress with land negotiations and protective provisions were irrelevant. Final point I'd like to make is just to highlight the importance of the planning inspector it's national infrastructure planning website to the examination. Get Burton energy Park project page, you will find information about this application including the examination library that contains all the application document written submissions, procedural documents related to the project each time a deadline passes, the documents that have been submitted, will be added to the examination library. So that they are available for everyone to see, I'd strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with this website, because the examining authority will be using it to communicate with you and to provide access to documents during the examination. Support important that you're all clear in your understanding of the process. Therefore, if there's anything that you're unclear about, or on which you need clarity, please ask. If you have any specific points to make regarding the draft timetable, we can ask who's under agenda item four. And then he pointed by the interrelationship of this project with the other end CIP project should be revised under agenda item five. If there's no questions about the process don't do anything there. No hands up nothing. Okay, I shall move on. Now case, I move on to Item three on the agenda, which is the initial assessment of principal issues, that's Annex D, of my sixth letter.

19:03

Those of you have got hard copies, it'd be useful to have an HD there. I'm not going to share a list of the main headings of the principal issue. So that takes out all the sub headings but just gives a general overview of the me and let's start on the screen now. Thank you very much.

19:25

This list provides an initial framework of issues for the examination of this application does not preclude me from amending the list by removing or adding to the initial principal issues at a later stage in the process. don't really think that I've got anything to add. There's the general list. That was the air. You've seen the sub lists are there. I don't think that I need to go through that in much more detail from my perspective. I have comments from 7000 Diego groups on this item. So I shall turn to Scott But in a moment, as I understand she's speaking on behalf of them at the hearing today, just in relation to that

particular matter. But firstly, if I turn to the applicant, have you got any comments that you wish to make on the initial principal issues?

20:18

Me standing on behalf of the applicant? No, sir, no comments.

20:27

Thank you very much.

20:33

For turning to those speakers, I just wanted to make a general comment that by inviting you to speak, please remember that I'm not looking for submissions on the merits of the scheme that will form part of the detailed examination of the application which commences after the preliminary meeting. I'm only considering comments on the broad principles. And with that in mind, I'll now return to you for your submissions. Miss Korbut. I've seen your deadline, a submissions on behalf of 7000 acres, you've got a number of points and various items. But if we're just dealing with the initial assessment of principle issues, firstly.

21:11

Thank you. Yes,

21:13

if you just for the purposes of everybody else available, your name who you represent. Each time you speak sorry.

21:21

Thank you for this Garbett 7000 acres. Yes, in terms of the general cost topic questions. Our main point was that there seems to be no general question as to the extent to which the local community has been reached by the communication and consultation process carried out by the applicant. And we understand obviously, there are legal principles that have to be met in terms of those. So we just feel that that's been a failing from the first instance. Thank you.

22:00

Okay, I'll listen to basically the comments that you wish to make on this. I would simply say here is the principal issues are an identification of the matters that I will look into in terms of the merits of the proposal. If you have any comments and consultation, please include those in your written representations. And I'll take account of those. Thank you. I believe you've got a couple of points here. Did you want to go on and the other other points, you got some general cross topics, then you had some legislative and policy matters, the extent of the Rochdale envelope climate change, which were all matters that were picked up in the principal issues?

22:52

Well, we obviously supplied these in writing. So we have no further submission here

22:57

now. Okay. Thank you very much. Abbott just sort of comment that in terms of some of the comments that you've made, that many of those issues are actually what we've what we have in terms of the principal issues and identification of the matters that I will look at. So a lot of what you were saying is about the merits of the case and what I need to get into but that's what we'll get into when we're looking at the principal issues. Okay, well, if you've got nothing further to add to that is there anybody else who would like to raise any issues on the we call the ARP but the initial error principle issues Does anybody else have any matters that they wish to raise? Nope. Okay.

24:04

Let's just return to Item four on the agenda the draft examination timetable.

24:24

Third act and I have my rule six letter and hard copies are there. Again, if that can be displayed. Just start off with the initial page and get to Annex II as it runs over a large number of pages may not be particularly helpful but if we don't there, if we need anything, then we can scroll through that and actually set out my draft examination timetable for the next six months from today to completion on or before the fourth of January 2024, which is a statutory timetable. Timetable sets at the draft dates for the submission of written documents and various deadlines across the period. It also includes dates for examining the examining authority to hold further set of hearings presently are identified as the week commencing the 21st of August and the week commencing the ninth of October. And it deals with issues of documents, such as my further written questions, my proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO under report on implications for European sites if one is determined to be necessary. For I go any further, there's a small point the tangible I'd like to draw to your attention, point 13 down to that a typing error as much as anything else.

26:04

There's Tuesday, the 25th of October, it should be Wednesday the 25th of October.

26:19

Thank you very much. I would note that in terms of the timetable any of the submissions of information that is stated as a particular date or timetable, the date is concludes at 2359 One minute to midnight on that date. Again, I've got a request to speak on this item from 7000 acres. If I can turn to mascara, but if you could introduce yourself, and then just make your general comments on Item four that you wish to make.

26:53

Thank you, Liz Garber 7000 acres? Yes, our general comment is that a lot of residents feel already excluded from the process, and that they don't have the expertise or understanding of this type of process. And therefore, there would seem to be a need for time for residents to take all this on board prior to this process actually beginning. It's been said to me this morning, it's a very intimidating process. And I will see, one obviously tries to be as friendly. I'm sure the inspectorate examining authority tried to be as friendly as possible, but it is for the vast majority of residents. So we feel that there could be more time given prior to this starts. Thank you.

27:46

Okay. I'll just comment to say that once an application is accepted, the clock starts ticking as it were. Device suggesting the preliminary meeting should take place approximately three months after acceptance. So there's a general indication when that process should start application was accepted on the 22nd of February. And we're already past that three months that we're already a bit further forward than we would normally be. In terms of the process. Purpose of setting out a timetable for the next six months, is it puts in place a framework for the call of the examination process over that six months period, and sets out various milestones and important dates that all parties are aware of well in advance. So there's an indication there that you can pre program and plan some activities and things of that nature and keep an eye out for for information that's provided. So guess what, these can be somewhat intimidating. And there is a significant amount of information by trying to break that down and give it a timetable with what is likely to happen over the next six months. And hopefully, that gives some process and some sort of milestones for you to work to. Thank you very much for those comments. And we wanted some detail of the timetable, mix some sort of general comments about that, and then we'll talk about some of the specifics that I know that certain parties want to raise with me. And as you'll see from the draft came table, there are seven proposed deadlines. Where examining authority requires information to be submitted into brevity, I don't intend to go through each of those. Four through the timetable its entirety, but just sort of highlight some key points to you. Following the start of the examination, which is at the conclusion of this, I'll hold my first open floor hearings this afternoon at 2pm. This is an opportunity for individuals to speak directly to examining authority and as the name suggests, it's open to any interested party to attend. It's not about any particular location or topic in relation to the proposal. And it's just for me to hear whatever comments that you have and for you to make us comments. That will then be followed by my first issue specific hearing, which will be tomorrow morning commencing at 10 o'clock. And that will cover the scope of the proposed development and the draft development consent order. Just if I make a bit of a segue away from some certain elements and just talk about hearings in general, you will be aware from the format of this week is event and today that the examining authority is able to hold hearings as blended events is where we've got in person and virtual attendance. My draft timetable makes no assumptions about how future hearings will be held. But I will give as much notice as possible regarding whether they will take place as in person events, blended events, or even potentially fully virtual events. I will consider a range of issues at the time when determining the event as to the nature and most appropriate nature of that including things like accessibility, convenience, location and timing. Does anybody have any comments about their preference or any comments about the type of event as to whether it would be blended virtual fully virtual, or in person? Applicant?

31:33

Me standing on behalf of the applicant? No comments?

31:36

Thank you very much. I turn to the council.

31:41

So we quite like blended event. Because it allows her residents to attend in person, and also allows for people who might not be able to travel to Lincoln to take pet Lake Park paintings meaningfully. So that's our preference. So

31:57

yeah, thank you. Where's Linda?

32:01

So I echo the comments were made about blended events. That's our preference also

32:10

Towson us,

32:11

thank you, let's call it 7000 acres. Yes, we needed a better sort of we don't have very good broadband facilities in some sort of, of our regional areas. And therefore that excludes a lot of people. So I'm refer to a blended event maybe within the region, if possible. And also to to have the event in a location that residents feel they can identify with Lincoln city isn't somewhere. It's not within the district where these applications are. So it really needs to be sited within that region. Thank you.

32:52

Thank you for the comment. Somebody else have any comments on that? No, thank you. I continue hands up. So thank you for those comments. I'd like to remind you that oral representations and submissions in our hearing should be based on representations previously made in writing and not simply repeated matters covered in those written submissions, as you'd rather provide further detail on issues. Seated by the hearings themselves. As I've said, we will hold potentially to further sets of hearings depending on the necessity for those future dates. If any interested parties anticipate that you would wish to be heard at any future open floor hearing either I beyond the one that's going to be held this afternoon, or at a compulsory acquisition hearing. Could you please notify me in writing by deadline one. I'm mindful that the maybe parties also who are following today's meeting via the live stream or watching the recording after the event, who may also have views about the format of future events. I would say to anybody in that situation if you plan to participate in future hearings, and you have a preference as to whether these events are held with an in person element or virtually then please again, make your representation by deadline one, which in the draft timetable is Tuesday the 10th of July. As you as you'll have seen, we publish agendas to a certain degree fuller or not too full depending on the nature of the hearing. I do understand it's helpful to have sight of agendas as early as possible. And as you will appreciate there is of course a timetabling balance between the number of days between a deadline when information is received and publication of agendas level of Do you feel that can be prepared for the rich agendas? I've entered with the scope of the development and the DCO hearing today to provide a fair amount of detail to assist in the hearing preparation. But future agendas may not necessarily be quite so full, depending on what information I have in front of me. Regarding the topics for any further issue specific hearings, at future debts, initially, I've given some thought to what they might be. And I think there's likely to be some around construction matters and affects some of them someone generated capacity in the BSS. And then possibly an ISA on environmental effects,

which would include matters such as landscape and visual biodiversity, land use by agricultural land use, and possibly flood risk. That's very initial view, just to give you some sort of heads up. But it may be that deadline one and deadline two submissions. The local impact reports written representations and responses to my first written questions and statements of common ground, that the information I need on these matters is provided, in which case, I may not need the hearing time. In any event, I'm likely to spend some time or some more hearing time on the draft consent order. And I may also hold compulsory acquisition hearings depending on requests on representations. So back to the draft timetable, sorry. Takeaway, just to give a bit of a talk about the hearings as soon as possible after the open floor hearing in the draft DCO hearing our issue may really letter which will finalize the examination timetable, and as I said, published my first set of written questions. So on the specifics of the timetable, deadline, one we've got a couple of issues here. And protect particular I believe Mr. McBride and Lincolnshire county council want to raise an issue with me if you want to do so knife.

37:34

Stephanie Hall, Lincolnshire county council, we did have an issue we don't now happily, we weren't going to be pressed to get our local impact report ready for deadline one, but we managed to take it to committee last night. So we'll be able to meet that deadline.

37:48

Oh, that's that's very good news.

37:50

We have some older issues on timetabling, but they shade into item five and the interrelationship with other projects. So have in your hands as to whether you want me to put those to you now, sir, are we? Well,

38:03

let's see how the rest of the timetable develops, it may be that it's within that or that it comes into five because I know you've got a bit of an issue about I'll pick my moment today. Yeah, I'll give you the opportunity. And if it slips by and you don't feel it, you've heard it there's always the end of it that you can pick it up as well.

38:38

The timetable does include a potential for me to carry out an accompanied state inspection, you will be aware of that I've already carried out another company site inspection and there's a note on the website regarding that that was held on the third and fourth of May. inspection was principally undertaken in order to observe and inspect the landscape character, their views, some of the environmental statement viewpoints and site proposed for the PV panel arrays, substation, cable corridor, works compounds, etc, which were visible from publicly accessible locations. Their company site inspection, they're really provided to ensure that the examining authority can gain an understanding of the proposed development within its site and surroundings, as well as its effect. During an accompanying site inspection, there's no discussion of the merits during the course of that inspection, but the act says attention can be drawn to any point so it's not that if we hold an accompany take inspection, it's another opportunity to go through the merits of the case. It's not really for that and tomorrow for just for me to

look at writing the place so if I don't hold one, it's not that there's something that you miss out. on an opportunity to provide further information to me, that's not the purpose of a site inspection. Procedural deadline a requested suggestions for locations for an accompany site inspections, I've received a number of responses including from the applicant. And these are contained in the procedural deadline a responses in the examination library. Many of the requests are for me to visit the site and to view it from public accessible locations or from viewpoints within the ies. And I've already done a number of that points from unaccompanied site inspection. Or it may be that I undertake some of those from on accompany tape inspections, given that many of them are public locations that have been presented to me by various parties. So simply because I don't hold another accompany take Perfection doesn't mean to say I won't visit those. There is a requirement in the timetable for a draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection at deadline one. I think the challenge is, could you provide a draft timetable for us to for that week of the 21st of August? Primarily, I would anticipate that it would be for within the site area, if I was going to do that, see where the Bs is. And the road access takes you into that. And to see some of the the extent of the arrays and things of that nature from within the site, rather than to go around that. So it's quite a contained site area. So it might be that it's not an overly long accompanied site inspection. But it may be that you can take that away, look at what sites have already visited, what views I've visited, look at some of the comments that have been made by the various parties. I'm trying to put together a draft accompanied state inspection itinerary and then we can review that. I don't expect it to be overly extensive. Is there anything that you would wish to comment or ask me about on that matter?

42:29

Amy Sterling on behalf of the applicant and we have a process of preparing a draft itinerary for this visit to be submitted to Deadline one. We've reviewed the procedure deadline responses, and sought to accommodate all of the suggestions within that draft itinerary. Some of them are very proximate to viewpoints that we'd already identified. So we've sought to amalgamate them, where possible. We take your point about perhaps focusing more insight rather than from various viewpoints. So we'll consider the comments you've made today. I'm review the Secretary and submit something for deadline one. I'll just take if my colleague ally, leaders got anything to add.

43:09

Okay, good morning, sir. And a leader if an applicant just to clarify, so would you like us because most of the suggestions we received from other parties that procedure that DNA were from outside the site? So do you wish us to prepare an itinerary that incorporates those suggestions? Or do you just wish it to be from within the site?

43:28

I think in terms of the accompanied visit, it would just be within the site because I can do those externally. I can do those on the company site inspections myself, because there are publicly publicly accessible locations. Okay, thank you for the clarification. Do Lincolnshire have any comments? And? No, no, I don't think so. Thank you.

43:52

No, thank you, sir. Thank you.

43:55

Okay, thank you all very much.

44:16

That would be submitted a deadline one and then deadline two would obviously give interested parties the opportunity to comment on that draft itinerary. In any case, once we get a draft in front of us, and then people can have an opportunity to say whether or not they're happy with that or whether or not there's any further adjustments that need to be made to that. A final itinerary would be published at least five days in advance of the event taking place. But I would give more notice than that, on SATs confirmed. should be noted that any submission deadline one does not preclude any further requests for site visits. site inspections including suggestion to prospective locations during the examination. This may be after you've had the opportunity to review what has been said at hearings, or in any additional documents that may be produced by others should be good reason for doing so, it may be the aisle to decide to carry out further on accompany tape inspections at any point during the examination. And if I do so, there will be notes from such inspections placed on the website.

45:38

I don't see any hands raised or anything from the virtual bones. And obviously, if anybody is reviewing this or viewing it from the live stream, and they wish to make comments and again, the various deadlines are the appropriate point to do that. So back to the general draft timetable. You'll see from the draft timetable that there are further set of written questions if I require those. And they're programmed for Tuesday, the 12th of September, and Tuesday the 25th of October. So again interspersed throughout the the timetable. I may also at any point during the examination issue requests for information from named parties. But that will only be if necessary, and in respect of a particular issue or a particular point. Those are known as rule 17 requests. There's a final substantive deadline, which is provided a deadline sets, which is Thursday the 14th of December. So concluding before Christmas, and the submission of when I would expect the finalized document that have been evolving over the examination. There is a final deadline of deadlines seven, which is on Thursday, the fourth of January just before the close of the examination. That's really to ally all parties submit any final comments and to summarize your final positions, having seen the finalized documents, to not an opportunity to raise new matters or introduce new evidence, but rather than opportunity for parties to provide a summary of where their case or position is at the end of the examination to assist me in drafting my final recommendation report. I am conscious that this is a tight timetable in some places, but note IBM to spread the deadlines across the examination period, and sought to avoid clashes with the other end SIP timetables that are presently available to me on some of the future hearings, if required, or sheduled, for during the main school holidays. I recognize that it's unfortunate. But I've got a statutory timetable to meet which is six months. And I can't really delay certain elements across what would be an important period of the examination period. I will seek to mitigate this by looking at enabling virtual participation and trying to reduce the need to travel I will consider alternative locations for hearing venues. I've heard what people have said about Lincoln. So at those future events, and if people do request further open floor hearings, I will consider locations closer to the application site. And I will give consideration to the potential for in the evening meeting or something of that nature for open floor hearings to facilitate that if they're requested. And those are sort of the general comments that I

wanted to make about the timetable and just sort of talk you through where I'd got to with the timetable. So does the applicant wish to raise any issues about the timetable with me?

49:08

Me standing on behalf of applicant? No. We have notice days with the timetable posts. Okay. Thank you.

49:20

Cheers. Can I turn to the host authorities? And maybe this is your opportunity to raise your issue?

49:24

I think so. Yes. So Stephanie Hall, Lincolnshire county council. So two related points to make. The first is we're not asking for specific amendments to the timetable. I'm just at this point. So waving a flag that you will be very well aware of the number of projects that Lincolnshire county council particularly have to deal with, although we've only got to a foot at the moment that is to have a potential eight or nine by the end of this year. Yes. So we're all very conscious, I'm sure I'm sure you are so but I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't wave the flag very publicly that we will absolutely do our utmost to meet all of those deadlines. But we are a small team. We have not got a great body of kind of consultants sitting behind us, we essentially Mr. MacBride, myself and some assistance from offices, we will do everything we can to meet your deadline. So but just to make you aware of our limitation,

50:25

no, I'm conscious that and we will get on to the issue of but the interrelationships with with other other parties, but I'm very conscious that there are a number of insults either ongoing or in the pipeline very soon to start or in the pipeline slightly further down. I've only got what I have visible in front of me. So I've only got a timetable where I can look at off call our TAs at the minute exactly the other ones who is burdened and awesome, etc. Their preliminary meeting hasn't been said their timetable isn't public, nothing there that I can look up. No, no, I am conscious. There is obviously the ability if there is a very significant clash for me to amend the timetable during that. But obviously, the purpose of a timetable is to set deadlines and to set a timetable so that everybody's conscious of that. So unless you're very special circumstances, it's unlikely to try and amend that. But I am conscious of the of the circumstances,

51:28

if they if in terms of clashes, I think it's for us not just a clash between potential issues specific hearings, which would be difficult because I'm only one person, we can only be in one place at one time. But, but also, in terms of the written work that needs to go on behind the scenes, obviously, I said that the number of written deadlines happening at the same time as a few specific things. For example, if we're in this room, we can't, we can't be at our desks writing things down. It's just a wave that flag so but thank you for the efforts so far. So I appreciate that. So, this examining authority can only do what it can do.

52:03

So that it will we will keep an eye on very great. The other timetables, you know, we are conscious of

52:12

very, very grateful. So yes, in that regard, we have one suggestion for an addition slash amendment to the timetable, not in terms of the deadlines, but in terms of how the issue specific hearings in October might be used. So you'll be aware from a written representation so far that we have, we have a concern about how members of the public might wish to engage with all of these projects under for example, a resident living in Lincolnshire that was concerned about cumulative effects of those presently, too, but climbing in number projects would have to potentially attend, you know, eight rounds of issue specific hearings for eight projects and say potentially the same things that they felt, you know that the cumulative effects were, for example, to great suggestion. And the problem with that is not only in terms of time, but also sir sort of consultation fatigue, essentially, that we are a little bit concerned that although participation may be at its highest at the beginning of a process, people's enthusiasm for responding to consultations and coming tissue specific hearings may wane and those are not necessarily a problem for this examination, because you're right at the front of the queue. But in terms of taking a more holistic approach, we're concerned that the longer this goes on, and the more residents have to come to more hearings, that the less representation, the less representative, those hearings will be if people get fatigued and don't, don't come. So. So we would strongly ask for one of the issues specific hearings in our round to to be focused on cumulative effects and be held and we'll make this representation to ought to all live projects, that that that time in the timescale could be used to deal with cumulative effects for all life projects at that point. So So you would, on our view, it would be very helpful for you to sit in a room like this one, and have overlapping issue specific hearings. So you are present the examining authority for for gatekeeper for West person, which will likely be entrained by then, sit in the same room and Malpass sit in the same room and have a joint cubes effect issue specific hearing, where you deal with cumulative effects of once for all life projects at that point and we may even have tilbage boat by that stage. So we strongly ask the inspectorate to consider how cumulative effects can be dealt with in a way that minimizes the sheer number of times that members of the public might need to participate say exactly the same thing. 2345678 different examining reports. At least,

55:01

I would have to comment on that point. Which is, firstly, a question to use to what additional information you would think I as an examining authority would get, by sitting in a room with another examining authority, you will be well aware that the environmental statement, and my initial assessment of principle issues focuses quite significantly on the cumulative effect. Because very much those are irrelevant, unimportant matters for me to have regard to, in terms of getting to my recommendation, and indeed, for the Secretary of State to have in terms of making their determination on the application. So, cumulative effects are an important issue. But I'm struggling to see what additional information I would gather from being in the same room as another examining authority. And I'll just sort of continue that by saying that the information that people put into those examinations needs to be in front of the examining authority. And there is the ability for those participants to either put that in in writing, because these are primarily written processes, or to put them in, in verbal, oral submissions. And also, as we'll get on to, in terms of annex, see the documentation that I'm requesting from the applicant in terms of the interrelationships with other processes, and the ability for people to comment on those, and provide many opportunities, and different opportunities for participants to put in what may in effect be the same

information at each time. But to a certain extent, what they can do is they can collect and collect that information, and then just submit it to each each of the authorities.

57:14

So yes, I think it's two points in terms of the substance, it's very hard to Crystal Ball haze. And essentially, you don't know what you don't know. And our concern is that there are potentially participants in other DCS or people participating in this one that that don't participate in. Westbourne, for example. So you don't know what you don't know until all of those people are talking to each other and in the same room, in terms of that sort of substance point, the procedural pointed, it's more of a public participation point, we obviously have an eye to encouraging engagement of our of our residents. And people have waved the flag with us that they feel like this, this process is so difficult, and that there are a lot of these to do. And so in terms of trying to streamline the process, that that that was our idea.

58:03

I mean, to a certain extent, one concern that I have is in terms of ensuring that it's not necessarily front loading, but making sure that the relevant information is before me as early as possible in the examination so that all parties are given an opportunity to respond to that. And that is, in terms of both, from the applicant from the host authorities from the interested parties who may do that. And from the statutory parties, the earlier that is put into the examination, then the earlier that parties have an opportunity to do that, I can well see that my first set of hearings, which will be the August hearings, will look at the visual aspect will look at the cumulative aspects. And I wouldn't wish to push that to the back end of the examination, which October would be starting to come towards that back end of the examination in case matters. Significant matters are raised before me. And that doesn't give the other participants the applicant or other parties an opportunity to respond to that. So there's a balance to be struck.

59:24

So yeah, thank you. I think Mr. MacBride has indicated that he'd like to pitch in.

59:34

Thank you, sir. Neil McBride, Lincoln County Council. Yeah, I think in terms of the point that was made about this sort of perception of these projects, so I spent the best part of an hour and a half yesterday in front of the planning committee at the County Council, where there was particularly concern from the counselors about how this sort of cumulative impact of these projects come The examine. So obviously we've got Malpass we've got Gabe Burton started today. Cottam, probably first week of September, less Burton, maybe middle of September Hankinson, towards the end of September. So there's potentially five projects that will be examinations that will have started by those second round the parents in October. And there does seem to be a an opportunity in terms of helping the communities who are obviously potentially affected by these projects to see that there is a way that these are being examined in a way that enables that cumulative impact to be to be seen together, rather than each examining authority. Doing it, I suppose, almost in a silent way, how much maybe each examining authority gets out of that process? You know, that's to be determined. But I think from a community perception perspective, I think there's a lot of merit in terms of having that, that those the availability and having that particular sort of hearing tilbage might be submitted by then. Obviously, no. And so

that's, that's one further down the line. But I think just the ones that will be sort of anticipated to have been, I think, the examination starting, but

1:01:30

I hear the call, I understand what's being said, but I have to set a timetable. No, without knowing what those timetables are. And you speculated as to when the preliminary meetings for a couple of those may be I've got no certainty around that they could be further delayed, even if the preliminary meeting is held in their first set of hearings, substantive hearings, may not be for a month or two into those. So it may not be that there's an opportunity to create that. And for me to try and put within my timetable, an issue specific hearing on a matter in combination with another examination, which hasn't even commenced yet, is something that's probably beyond my position at this point in time. I wouldn't say that further down the line, depending on how those things go that would that cannot be reviewed. Because obviously, we can look at that. But in terms of my release letter, and in terms of my timetable that set No, I think that's speculation that's beyond me.

1:02:54

Without saying, we can ask you, sir, to review that when that wants to get to September? And

1:03:01

if indeed, I think that's probably the best way to look at that. Yeah, I'll move my way around the room, and I noticed a hand in the room, I'll come to you. And once I've got the other people. So West Lindsey, do you have any comment?

1:03:17

Thanks so much. Let me check for West Lindsay District Council. We echo the points entirely that the name of the reasons that they've been made. But we're quite content that it remains under review. We do have concerns as have already been expressed about, in part, the procedural aspects and public participation, but also the substantive overlap and the new information that might go into each examination from another examination. But we're quite content that if it remains under review, we can we can approach it in the appropriate way in due course. Thank you.

1:03:55

Senator, thank you. Let's go about 7000 acres. Yes, thank you for keeping this under review. We appreciate that. In terms of a residents perspective, this is something we don't really experience the projects separately, they're experienced collectively within our communities. And I appreciate obviously, they are separate projects in terms of different applications. But from the end users perspective, they're not they all have a similar impacts and obviously, they all have their own individual variations of projects, but the impacts on us all are the same. Therefore, the experience is the same.

1:04:34

I think sorry, just to be very clear, the cumulative impact of potential development is a relevant and important matter that I will examine this examining authority. This examination will look at the impact of this scheme, and the accumulation of effect with other schemes that are either consented or potentially consented, that is an important and relevant matter for us to consider. I think the issue that's being

raised here is how you consider that and whether or not that should be done at conjoined hearings, or whether or not how you get that information in front of you. At this point in time, those other examinations haven't commenced. So I've got no indication I've got no visibility on when they're hearings or what their timetable might be like. So I can't really set a timetable. No, because I don't have that information in front of me. And what I've tried to do in terms of this timetable, and in terms of the points that I'm seeking to have the applicant submit and have the potential for people to comment upon, is to provide vehicles to enable the submission of information on those other schemes, so that we always have the latest information available to this examination that's available in the broader public arena. So that there's not a question of something that's not that's in the public arena that isn't actually in front of me. Sorry, yes. Okay, thank you very much.

1:06:31

I think that's covered most things. I'll just come back to the applicant to see if they've got any final comments that they would like to make on the matters that have just been heard discussed.

1:06:40

Yes, thanks. Sorry, me standing on behalf of the applicant. And yeah, we appreciate the concerns that have been raised. And then number of projects, which are proceeding through the system, and we'll proceed through the system and the second half of this year, we do consider that acumen services can be appropriately considered within the draft timetable that has been provided. But we support keeping this subject to review once the detail of further timetables are known. And we can also open to considering proposals for interested parties at that time. But ultimately, we're in your hands or in this, obviously for the examining authority to determine how best to examine this application for the gate Breton DCO.

1:07:18

Thank you very much.

1:07:28

Okay, I don't see any hands up. I think we've dealt with most of the matters in the room.

1:07:39

I would just say that I will actively consider all the points that I have read that have been raised before me here today, before I finalize the timetable. So I'm sure you're all aware, there are many competing aspects when drafting a timetable including several internal deadlines for the inspectorate, which also need to be built in such as the publication of notifications and things of that nature. To defect difficult task to draft a timetable, which everybody is 100% happy with. I will however, take all the comments made here today, and procedural deadline a into account when producing my release letter and the final timetable, but I will say it is up to me as the examining authority to conclude that timetable. Once the examination closes, I will remind you that no further submissions can be accepted. When the examining authority has completed its examination of the application, it will form each of the interested parties. Next item is agenda item five, but I'm conscious that it's been quite an intense morning so far. So I intended to take a short break. And if we say 15 minutes for a comfort break, so I make it as just

coming up to 10 past 11. So if I adjourn the hearing and resume at 25 past. Okay, the hearing is adjourned. Thank you very much.